

CLAIMS

1. A method of selecting a communication network by a mobile station associated with a home communication network having a home mobile country code (MCC), the method comprising:
5 selecting and operating with a non-home communication network having a visiting MCC;
after expiration of a timer:
scanning to identify a plurality of communication networks in a
10 coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;
if the home communication network having the home MCC is identified as being available by the scanning, selecting and operating with the home communication network; and
otherwise, if the non-home communication network having the visiting
15 MCC is identified as being available by the scanning, selecting and operating with the non-home communication network.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the home MCC is associated with a first country and the visiting MCC is associated with a second country which shares a
20 border with the first country.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the timer comprises a periodic timer.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the timer comprises a periodic timer
25 and the acts of scanning, selecting, and operating are performed in response to expirations of the periodic timer.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication networks comprise Public Land Mobile Networks (PLMNs).
- 30 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication networks are operative in accordance with Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM).

7. A mobile station associated with a home communication network having a home Mobile Country Code (MCC), the mobile station comprising:

a wireless transceiver;

5 an antenna coupled to the wireless transceiver;

one or more processors coupled to the wireless transceiver;

said one or more processors being configured to select a communication network through which to communicate by:

10 selecting and operating with a non-home communication network having a visiting MCC;

after expiration of a timer:

scanning to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;

15 if the home communication network having the home MCC is identified as being available by the scanning, selecting and operating with the home communication network; and

otherwise, if the non-home communication network having the visiting MCC is identified as being available by the scanning, selecting and operating with the non-home communication network.

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8. The mobile station of claim 7, wherein the home MCC is associated with a first country and the visiting MCC is associated with a second country which shares a border with the first country.

25 9. The mobile station of claim 7, wherein the timer comprises a periodic timer.

10. The mobile station of claim 7, wherein the timer comprises a periodic timer and the acts of scanning, selecting, and operating are performed in response to
30 expirations of the periodic timer.

11. The mobile station of claim 7, wherein the communication networks comprise Public Land Mobile Networks (PLMNs).

12. The mobile station of claim 7, wherein the communication networks
5 are operative in accordance with Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM).

13. A communication system, comprising:

- a first communication network having a first Mobile Country Code (MCC) associated with a first country;
- 10 a second communication network having a second MCC associated with a second country;
- one or more mobile stations which are operable with the first and the second communication networks;
- the one or more mobile stations having the first communication network
- 15 designated as its home communication network;
- the one or more mobile stations being operative to:
 - select and operate with the second communication network having the second MCC;
 - after expiration of a timer:
 - 20 scan to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating;
 - if the first communication network having the first MCC is identified as being available by the scan, select and operate with the first communication network; and
 - 25 otherwise, if the second communication network having the second MCC is identified as being available by the scan, select and operate with the second communication network.

14. The communication system of claim 13, wherein the first country
30 shares a common border with the second country.

15. The communication system of claim 13, wherein the timer comprises a periodic timer.

5 16. The communication system of claim 13, wherein the timer comprises a periodic timer and the acts of scanning, selecting, and operating are performed in response to expirations of the periodic timer.

10 17. The communication system of claim 13, wherein the communication networks comprise Public Land Mobile Networks (PLMNs).

18. The communication system of claim 13, wherein the communication networks are operative in accordance with Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM).

15 19. A method of selecting a communication network by a mobile station associated with a home communication network having a home mobile country code (MCC), the method comprising:

selecting and operating with a non-home communication network having a visiting MCC;

20 scanning to identify a plurality of communication networks in a coverage area within which the mobile station is operating; and

if the home communication network having the home MCC is identified as being available by the scanning, selecting and operating with the home communication network.

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20. The method of claim 19, further comprising:

otherwise, if the non-home communication network having the visiting MCC is identified as being available by the scanning, selecting and operating with the non-home communication network.

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21. The method of claim 19, wherein the home MCC is associated with a first country and the visiting MCC is associated with a second country which shares a border with the first country.

5 22. The method of claim 19, wherein the act of scanning is performed after expiration of a timer.

23. The method of claim 19, the acts of scanning, selecting, and operating are performed in response to expirations of a periodic timer.

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24. The method of claim 19, wherein the communication networks comprise Public Land Mobile Networks (PLMNs).

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the communication networks are
15 operative in accordance with Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSM).

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